



# Crop Weather Report

**Issue: 09-03**

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Monthly: Nov-Mar

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For the Month Ending:  
Mar. 31, 2009

## Weather Summary

Most of Montana received moderate precipitation for the month of March. White Sulphur Springs received the most monthly accumulated precipitation with 3.16 inches. Bozeman received a record high precipitation on March 29 of 0.44 of an inch, breaking the old record of 0.39 of an inch set in 1967. Billings had a record snowfall of 3.5 inches on the 25<sup>th</sup>, breaking the previous record of 3.0 inches set in 1948. Temperatures during the month of March were slightly below normal. Highs ranged from 40s to 70s and lows ranged from minus thirties to positive teens. Broadus had the high temperature during the month of 77 degrees, and Scobey had the low temperature of negative 33 degrees. Topsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 85 percent, above last month's 83 percent and much higher than last year's 30 percent. Subsoil moisture adequate and surplus is 74 percent, above last month's 62 and last year's 24 percent.

The weather outlook for April 6<sup>th</sup> through April 12<sup>th</sup> is for above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation east of the continental divide and for near normal temperatures and above normal precipitation west of the divide. Normal temperatures for this period in Montana are highs in the mid 40s to the mid 50s and lows ranging from the upper teens to the lower 30s.

According to the NRCS, snowpack on March 1<sup>st</sup> was 85 percent of average and 77 percent of last year west of the continental divide. Snowpack was 90 percent of average and 88 percent of 2007 east of the divide. Mountain snow water content statewide was 87 percent of average and 81 percent of last year. Spring streamflow is forecasted to average 76 to 89 percent.

## Livestock Report

Livestock birthing for both cattle and sheep are behind last year. Only 40 percent of pastures are open for grazing compared to 69 percent last year. Grazing has not been possible in many areas as cold weather and snow cover have not allowed grass to green. Producers in the north central district are hoping they have enough hay supplies to last until the grass does green up.

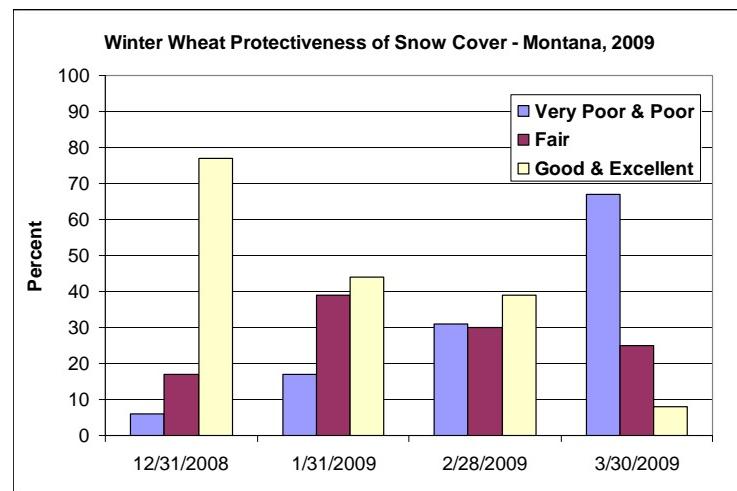
Range & Livestock Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Livestock Birthing</b>			
Calving Completed	52	20	53
Lambing Completed	30	9	40
<b>Livestock Grazing</b>			
Open	40	28	69
Difficult	41	45	15
Closed	19	27	16
<b>Livestock Receiving Supplemental Feed</b>			
Cattle and Calves	90	94	96
Sheep and Lambs	93	96	96

Soil Moisture Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Topsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	4	2	29
Short	11	15	41
Adequate	74	78	29
Surplus	11	5	1
<b>Subsoil Moisture</b>			
Very Short	8	14	30
Short	18	24	46
Adequate	70	60	23
Surplus	4	2	1

## Field Crops Report

Snow cover during the month of March was mostly poor. Recent warm temperatures during the last couple weeks caused snow cover to melt. Winter wheat damage from wind, freeze, and drought has been light to none. Eighty-two percent of winter wheat is still dormant, compared to 71 percent last year. Winter wheat conditions declined since last month but are better than last year.

Crop Condition Table	This Month	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Winter Wheat</b>			
Very Poor	1	1	4
Poor	3	4	11
Fair	40	36	51
Good	52	55	31
Excellent	4	4	3
<b>Winter Wheat- Wind Damage</b>			
None	62	65	37
Light	33	27	37
Moderate	4	6	24
Heavy	1	2	2
<b>Winter Wheat- Freeze and Drought Damage</b>			
None	53	63	38
Light	37	30	41
Moderate	9	6	20
Heavy	1	1	1
<b>Winter Wheat- Protectiveness of Snow Cover</b>			
Very Poor	24	7	47
Poor	43	24	22
Fair	25	30	20
Good	6	27	9
Excellent	2	12	2
<b>Winter Wheat- Spring Stages</b>			
Still Dormant	82	n/a	71
Greening	17	n/a	28
Greening & Growing	1	n/a	1



THIS INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AT: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mt/>

Completed and Summarized by:  
USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office

In conjunction with: MSU Extension Agents  
USDA County Service Centers

**Weather Information for the month ending 03/29/2009**

Station	Temperature				Precipitation March			Precipitation October 1 to date		
	Hi	Low	Avg	DFN	Total	DFN	% Nrm	Total	DFN	% Nrm
<b>NORTHWEST</b>	65	2	34	-5	1.71	+0.81	190	11.55	+5.87	203
	61	-1	32	-3	3.13	+2.17	326	8.56	+4.26	199
Clinton	61	1	34	+2	1.59	+0.86	218	6.59	-0.86	88
Corvallis	66	6	35	-5	0.90	+0.28	145	5.03	+0.85	120
Creston	54	-12	30	-5	1.26	+0.05	104	8.07	-0.03	100
Deer Lodge	61	-2	30	-5	0.80	+0.35	178	3.34	+0.95	140
Drummond	61	-2	32	-4	1.56	+0.87	226	6.89	+2.44	155
Hamilton	68	7	34	-4	0.96	+0.14	117	7.09	+1.39	124
Kalispell	56	-7	32	-4	0.81	-0.24	77	7.48	-0.27	97
Missoula	63	5	35	-3	0.95	+0.05	106	5.96	+0.28	105
Olney	57	-14	25	-7	0.93	-0.33	74	10.75	-1.00	91
Polson	58	-2	32	-6	0.84	-0.12	88	5.55	-0.79	88
St Ignatius	66	-8	33	-7	1.54	+0.46	143	8.30	+2.19	136
Seeley Lake	58	-21	30	-3	2.01	+0.77	162	14.83	+3.31	129
Sula	60	-1	30	-4	1.63	+0.72	179	6.58	+0.60	110
Superior	63	2	37	-4	1.26	+0.08	107	9.82	+1.57	119
Swan Lake	58	-13	29	-4	1.80	-0.04	98	14.81	-1.65	90
Thompson Falls	63	2	37	-4	2.24	+0.56	133	13.03	-0.39	97
West Glacier	53	-10	29	-5	2.10	+0.37	121	15.18	-0.34	98
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>	62	-24	26	-6	0.35	-0.12	74	5.29	+2.95	226
Chinook	61	-22	24	-7	0.03	-0.49	6	3.16	+0.16	105
Choteau	63	-18	30	-5	0.70	+0.40	233	2.56	+0.84	149
Cut Bank	63	-16	28	-3	0.48	-0.03	94	1.37	-1.01	58
Ft Assinniboine	63	-21	25	-8	0.04	-0.56	7	3.99	+0.83	126
Fort Benton	69	-19	30	-8	0.47	-0.32	59	3.88	+0.30	108
Goldbutte	64	-30	29	-4	0.22	-0.42	34	2.66	-0.39	87
Harlem	58	-19	26	-7	0.28	-0.06	82	3.28	+0.87	136
Havre	62	-20	26	-6	0.06	-0.60	9	2.71	-0.35	89
Malta	59	-18	28	-3	0.37	-0.18	67	4.04	+1.15	140
Rudyard	60	-19	25	-8	0.20	-0.20	50	3.50	+1.70	194
Shelby	64	-23	29	-4	0.66	+0.05	108	2.92	+0.04	101
Turner	60	-24	24	-7	0.22	-0.15	59	2.35	+0.14	106
Valier	63	-20	29	-5	1.16	+0.70	252	2.96	+0.71	132
<b>NORTHEAST</b>	49	-24	22	-8	0.14	-0.31	31	4.61	+2.26	196
Bredette	56	-23	24	-8	0.07	-0.38	16	4.16	+1.55	159
Culbertson	61	-19	26	-5	0.16	-0.27	37	3.20	+0.70	128
Glasgow	68	-15	32	+1	0.24	-0.27	47	3.19	+0.07	102
Glendive	69	-11	31	-3	0.15	-0.42	26	3.47	+0.22	107
Jordan	61	-18	27	-7	0.00	-0.36	0	3.62	+1.41	164
Nashua	45	-26	19	-8	0.04	-0.32	11	2.88	+0.79	138
Opheim	50	-27	21	-9	0.00	-0.57	0	4.37	+1.68	162
Plentywood	53	-19	25	-6	0.09	-0.34	21	1.64	-0.86	66
St Marie	49	-33	21	-7	0.16	-0.34	32	4.16	+1.96	189
Scobey	66	-15	29	-4	0.16	-0.36	31	3.75	+0.35	110
Sidney	60	-21	24	-8	0.08	-0.38	17	1.87	-0.72	72
<b>CENTRAL</b>	61	-13	31	-3	0.96	+0.29	143	3.64	+0.21	106
Cascade	65	-13	33	-2	0.87	-0.04	96	5.43	+1.26	130
Grass Range	65	-14	32	-2	0.59	-0.34	63	4.25	-0.05	99
Great Falls	64	-16	30	-5	0.80	+0.13	119	3.52	+0.25	108
Harlowton	62	-10	33	-3	0.93	+0.35	160	3.56	+0.49	116
Helena	65	-11	31	-1	0.07	-1.01	6	3.22	-1.94	62
Lewistown	63	-21	30	-3	1.38	+0.73	212	4.43	+1.19	137
Martinsdale	60	-17	29	-4	1.20	-0.06	95	6.53	+0.28	104
Neihart	63	-24	29	-4	0.89	-0.16	85	5.16	+0.08	102
Rogers Pass	72	-21	35	-3	0.68	+0.10	117	4.24	+1.06	133
Roundup	64	-15	31	-2	0.67	+0.11	120	3.74	+0.64	121
Ryegate	65	-12	31	-4	1.28	+0.38	142	4.41	+0.06	101
Stanford	63	-15	32	-6	1.21	+0.71	242	3.24	+0.81	133
Townsend	65	-15	30	-3	0.10	-0.57	15	3.81	+0.46	114
Valentine	59	-18	29	-4	3.16	+2.38	405	6.75	+3.24	192
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>	58	-13	29	-4	0.98	+0.50	204	3.76	+0.99	136
Boulder	57	-10	31	-5	1.71	+0.69	168	5.20	+0.25	105
Bozeman	56	-7	29	-2	0.63	-0.14	82	2.84	-0.84	77
Butte	59	-8	30	-5	1.26	+0.77	257	2.39	+0.23	111
Dillon	63	-8	32	-4	1.37	+0.56	169	3.68	-0.11	97
Ennis	51	-3	26	+1	1.55	-0.11	93	6.37	-0.84	88
Lakeview	60	-5	27	+3	1.87	+0.15	109	9.13	-1.96	82
W Yellowstone	59	-22	26	-1	1.55	+0.94	254	5.69	+1.71	143
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>	68	-8	35	-2	0.96	-0.06	94	5.08	+0.01	100
Billings	61	-6	30	+8	1.59	-0.29	85	4.99	-6.87	42
Cooke City	65	-2	35	-2	0.44	-0.15	75	2.43	-0.68	78
Gardiner	74	-11	37	-2	0.23	-0.38	38	3.14	-0.76	81
Hardin	70	-20	33	-4	0.73	-0.10	88	5.47	+1.21	128
Huntley	71	-18	34	-3	0.27	-0.49	36	5.45	+1.63	143
Hysham	65	-11	32	-4	1.31	+0.14	112	5.08	-0.33	94
Joliet	66	-17	33	-3	0.93	+0.16	121	2.50	-1.86	57
Livingston	65	-16	33	-4	2.36	+1.33	229	6.26	+1.13	122
Nye	66	-13	32	-4	1.16	+0.22	123	4.51	-0.06	99
Rapeland	74	-12	28	-2	1.37	+0.91	298	7.18	+4.22	243
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>	73	-17	28	-4	0.46	-0.25	65	3.04	-0.89	77
Albion	77	-14	35	-1	1.42	+0.63	180	5.53	+1.53	138
Baker	69	-23	30	-3	2.10	+1.37	288	6.89	+2.15	145
Broadus	75	-13	33	-2	0.22	-0.30	42	2.79	-0.65	81
Ekalaka	72	-24	30	-3	0.57	-0.14	80	4.21	+0.28	107
Miles City	74	-12	28	-2	1.37	+0.91	298	7.18	+4.22	243
Plevna	73	-17	28	-4	0.46	-0.25	65	3.04	-0.89	77

Compiled by AWIS, Inc. based on NWS data. DFN - Departure from normal 1971-2000.